c. 1867-1868

Eldon represents a significant example of an Italianate-style dwelling that is also important for its association with the Combs family, as well as a pair of local builders, George Horne and Thomas C. Greenwell. Robert C. Combs, born in 1834 and educated at Georgetown and Harvard law schools married Ruth Ford on October 24, 1865 (Curiously Ruth's parents constructed a very similar Italianate-style house in Leonardtown (see also SM-343)). A distinguished local lawyer, Combs was elected to the state senate in 1871 and to the House of Delegates in 1891. He died in 1916, but an obituary in the Saint Mary's Beacon noted that he was "the greatest read man of his generation."

Eldon directly reflected Robert C. Combs' prominent local status. In 1866, Combs purchased an 11 1/8 acre tract on the outskirts of Leonardtown from Benjamin G. and Martha E. Harris at a public sale. Constructed in 1867-68, the frame, two story, three bay dwelling contained a double-parlor, a two story service ell, an open string stair with a turned newel and banisters, mantles around every fireplace, and trim around every window and door in the main section of the house--making it one of the largest and most fashionable in Leonardtown at that time. An 1868 <u>St. Mary's Beacon</u> editorial touted Eldon as a new "suburban residence." The word suburban points to new architectural and social sensibilities that stressed neither country nor town; a medium that emphasized an organized yet naturalistic architectural landscape.

George Horne and Thomas C. Greenwell, were two builders familiar with these new architectural sensibilities. As the most prominent and prolific builders in Leonardtown during the 1860s-70s Horne and Greenwell constructed several other residences, agricultural outbuildings, as well as St. Peter's Chapel (SM-275) in Leonardtown.

SM-338, Eldon

St. Mary's County

Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

<u>Historic Context</u> Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Rural/Suburban

Historic Function and Use:

Residence

Known Design Source:

George Horne and Thomas C. Greenwell--builders

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. SM-338

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Nar	ne (indicate pr	referred name)		
historic Eldo				
and/or common	Terror and Troube, Terro	of Darley		
2. Loc		•		
0.2 mile street & numbe	es from the intersection	of Md Route 245 & 5, on t	he E side of Route 245	not for publication
city, town Leon	nardtown	vicinity of	congressional district	3
state Marylan	ad	county	St. Mary's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _x building(s) structure site	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment	museum park revivate residence religious
object	in process being considered not applicable	yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	government industrial military	rengious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names and	l mailing addresses	of all owners)
name Raymond	and Priscilla Hall			
street & number				
			telephone no	.:
	nardtown		nd zip code Md 2065	50
5. Loca	ation of Lega	al Description	n	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. St. M	lary's County Courthouse		liber MRB 477
street & number				folio 111
city, town Leon	ardtown		state _{Md}	
6. Repr	esentation	in Existing H	istorical Surve	
				уз
itle The Wentwo	rth House			
late December	1979		federal _X_ state	county local
pository for sur	rvey records Maryland Hi	storical Trust		
ity, town Crown	nsville			
			state Md	

7.	Description			Survey No. SM-338
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 3

Eldon is located approximately 0.1 mile north of the intersection of Washington Street and Route 5 on Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. The house sits back approximately 50 yards from Washington Street and is approached via a gravel road. Situated on flat to slightly rolling topography, the dwelling is surrounded by several large deciduous trees. There are also two outbuildings located on the east or rear side of the house.

Eldon, constructed in 1865, is a frame, two-story, three bay, Italianate-style dwelling with a side-passage plan and a side ell located on its south side. The entire dwelling is supported by a brick foundation. Evidence found in the crawlspace beneath the house suggests that the primary framing members for the house were hewn while the secondary studs and rafters were circular sawn. The frame of the house is sheathed with wood clapboard with the exterior corner-boards adorned with a simple torus bead. The low pitch, hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and pierced by three chimneys—two interior chimneys in the main block and one in the south ell. The main block chimneys feature square projections and a corbelled top.

The symmetrical, three-bay west elevation of the main block features two elongated six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with functional louvered shutters and a double-door with a four pane transom on the first floor. (All windows feature functional louvered shutters). All of these bays are shaded by a wrap around porch supported by a series of square columns that exhibit trim at the bottom and top suggesting a base and capital. The second foor consists of three, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. Above these windows, the overhanging cornice of this and every elevation is decorated with paired, scroll sawn brackets interspersed by a plain frieze. The south ell features much less decoration. The first floor of the two bay, south ell is comprised of a small six-over-six window and a projecting bay that contains a larger two-over-two window. The corners are not beaded. The second floor features two, six-over-six windows.

On the south elevation, the main block features one, six-over-six window on the first and second floors, while the south ell does not feature any openings. The gable end of the south ell, however, does contain an interior end brick chimney.

The fenestration of the main block's east elevation consists of four bays on the first floor-a four panel door and three, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. These bays are shaded by a screened porch with chamferred posts and supported by several brick piers. The second floor, however, features only two, six-over-six windows. At the juncture of the main block and the south ell it becomes clear that there were several alterations. Most noticeable are the two sets of paired six-over-six, sash windows on the first floor of the south ell and an overhanging bay on the second floor that features a small, six-over-six, window. These elements were added after the initial date of construction in order to enclose a breezeway between the main block and the south ell. Towards the southeast corner, the ell features a small screen porch that shades a six-over-six window and a panel door to the interior of the ell. The second floor of the ell features two six-over-six windows.

6. Significance			Survey No. SM-338	
Period	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	theck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	literature military music	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
Specific dates	1867-1868	Builder/Architect		
aı Appl:	icable Criteria: _xA nd/or icable Exception: _A L of Significance: _	A _B _C _D _I		

8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Eldon represents a significant example of an Italianate-style dwelling that is also important for its association with Robert C. Combs, a prominent local lawyer, as well as a pair of local builders, George Horne and Thomas C. Greenwell. Robert C. Combs, born in 1834, was educated at Georgetown and Harvard law schools. On October 24, 1865 Combs was wedded to Ruth Ford by Archbishop N. J. Spalding of Baltimore. His marriage to Ruth Ford, the daughter of Judge Robert Ford and Ellen Baltzall, confirmed Combs' prestige and station as a prominent public servant. (Curiously the Fords constructed a very similar Italianate-style house in Leonardtown (see also SM-343)). Together, Robert and Ruth raised at least seven children; R. Ford Combs, Paul Combs, Roger B. L. Combs, C. Manning Combs, Ruth Combs, Daniel Combs, and Mary C. Combs. While serving as a distinguished lawyer at the local level, Combs was elected to the state senate in 1871 and to the House of Delegates in 1891. He died in 1916, but an obituary in the Saint Mary's Beacon noted that he was "the greatest read man of his generation."

Eldon represents a dwelling that directly reflected Combs' prominent local status. In October of 1866, Robert C. Combs purchased an 11 1/8 acre tract on the outskirts of Leonardtown from Benjamin G. and Martha E. Harris at a public sale. Constructed in 1867-68, the frame, two story, three bay dwelling contained a double-parlor, a two story service ell, an open string stair with a turned newel and banisters, mantles around every fireplace, and trim around every window and door in the main section of the house. All of these characteristics made the dwelling one of the largest and most fashionable in Leonardtown at that time. A newspaper editorial from the St. Mary's Beacon from 1868 touted Eldon as the new "suburban residence" of R. C. Combs. This represents a curious distinction for a house in mid-nineteenth century Leonardtown. The word suburban points to new architectural and social sensibilities that stressed neither country nor town--a medium that emphasized an organized yet naturalistic architectural landscape.

While the building reflected new ideas about domestic ornament and decoration, the dwelling did not represent a total departure from past building forms. The floor plan, for instance, implicitly made provisions for domestic service. The side-passage and double-parlor arrangement permitted servants to move about the main block and south ell relatively

Major Bibliographical References Survey No. SM-338 Fresco, Margaret K. Marriages and Deaths, St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1900. Ridge, Maryland: Margaret K. Fresco, 1989. St. Mary's Beacon. v 5:36 p 2 c 2, June 25, 1868. 1870 United States Population Census. St. Mary's County, Maryland. Leonardtown District. **Geographical Data** Acreage of nominated property ____3.906 acres Quadrangle scale 1:24 000 Quadrangle name Leonardtown, Md UTM References do NOT complete UTM references Zone Easting Verbal boundary description and justification Same as per deed reference. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries code county code state code code county state Form Prepared By Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor name/title St. Mary's County Planning and Zoning date December 1996 organization telephone (301) 475-4662 street & number 328 Washington Street state Maryland Leonardtown city or town The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement. The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights. Maryland Historical Trust return to: MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Shaw House

21 State Circle

(301) 269-2438

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

CHACHOD

100 COMMUNITY PLACE

CROWNSVILLE MD 21032-2023

514-7600

SM-338, Eldon St. Mary's County 7.2 Description

The north elevation of the main block features a projection (original to the house) with a six-over-six window on the first and second floors. This projection at the northeast corner forms the terminus for the wrap around porch. Above the porch, a glass pane door opens onto the top of the porch.

The interior of Eldon's main block, while essentially a side-passage plan, forms an L-shape. The entry passage contains an open string stair with a turned newel, banisters, and scrollwork on the stingers. The passage permits entry to three rooms on the first floor. Each door and window of the first and second floor features wood trim, but the interior plaster and lathe have been removed and replaced. The front parlor features a plain mantel distinguished by plain columns with trim at their bottom and top indicating a base and a column. This type of mantle is found in all other major rooms of the house. The front parlor is also connected to a rear room by a pair of pocket-sliding doors—effectively creating a double-parlor. This rear room features a mantle and shares its chimney with a space immediately to the rear of the passage. This space, called the "library" by the current owners, contains a mantle and a door to the rear yard.

The second floor of the main block contains three main bedrooms and a stair-passage. While some of these rooms have been altered to make space for bathrooms and closets, their basic arrangement follows the plan of the first floor.

The plan of the ell, as noted in the description of the east elevation, has been modified by subsequent additions and enclosures. A door, located in the southeast corner room of the main block, permits entry into an enclosed breezeway to the south ell. Clapboard still lines the west side of the breezeway indicating that it was originally exposed to the weather. This breezeway now contains a rough stair to the second floor of the ell, a pantry, and a modern kitchen. The second floor of the ell features a stair passage, modern bathroom, and a large bedroom. According to the present owners Mr. and Mrs. Hall, this bedroom was the servants' or maids' room. The second floor of the main block could also be entered from the stair-passage of the ell through a single four-panel door.

Lying parallel to the east or rear side of the house are two outbuildings--a meat house and a garden house. Each are clad in clapboard (the garden house is covered with German siding), rest on brick foundations, and are covered with metal roofs. The door of the meathouse exhibits wrought iron hinges and hand wrought nails. The north elevation of this building also features airholes that form a tilted square shape. This row of outbuildings used to be anchored on the south side by a two story, summer kitchen that was recently demolished.

SM-338, Eldon St. Mary's County 8.2 Significance

unseen by guests in the front parlor. The 1870 U. S. Population Census confirms that Combs employed three African-American servants; Emely Greenwell, Ann Campbell, and Alexander Cooper--Marion Pane, a three year old African American youth is listed as also residing at the house. These servants probably lived in the either the second floor of the south ell or in the now demolished summer kitchen.

George Horne and Thomas C. Greenwell, were two builders familiar with these old and new architectural sensibilities. Using hewn and circular sawn timbers purchased from Robertson and Cunningham's lumber yard in Baltimore (their mark as well as the name George Horn was found on timbers within the house uncovered during a recent restoration), the two builders constructed Eldon in 1867-1868. These gentlemen represented the most prominent and prolific builders in Leonardtown just after the Civil War. Horne and Greenwell were responsible for constructing several other residences, agricultural outbuildings and St. Peter's Chapel in Leonardtown.

Robert C. Combs died in 1916, dividing his estate among his children that included R. Ford Combs, Margaret Combs and also C. Manning Combs. The property passed from their ownership in 1927 as it was sold to Kenneth B. Duke. Today, the property remains in the ownership of Raymond and Priscilla Duke (Wentworth)/ Hall--Priscilla being the daughter of Kenneth B. Duke.

SM-338, Eldon St. Mary's County 8.3 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: MRB Liber 477, Folio 111 Grantee: Interstate General Company L. P.

Grantor: Priscilla D. Wentworth (surviving tenant by the Entirety of Robert E. Wentworth)

Date: May 3, 1989

Note: In this transaction Priscilla D. Wentworth sells approximately 23 acres to the Interstate General Company. The house and lot, however, were excepted from the sale and remain in her possession.

Reference: MRB Liber 282, Folio 164

Grantee: Robert E. and Priscilla D. Wentworth

Grantor: Kenneth B. Duke, Jr., Virginia Coode Duke, Eleanor Duke Storck, Priscilla Duke

Wentworth

Date: October 18, 1977

Note: The property, listed under the name "Part of Darley" or "Eldon," consists of two tracts

totalling 31.746 acres.

Reference: DBK Liber 267, Folio 125 Grantee: Kenneth B. Duke, et al

Grantor: Virginia Coode Duke, representative for the estate of Loraine Hodges Duke

Date: February 28, 1977

Note: Loraine Hodges Duke died and her estate was testated on June 3, 1976 and referenced as Estate Number 2459. She received the property from her husband Kenneth B. Duke who died on

September 9, 1970 and whose estate is referenced as Estate Number 1375.

Reference: CBG Liber 75, Folio 371 Grantee: Kenneth B. and Loraine H. Duke

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: July 9, 1958

Reference: CBG Liber 75, Folio 369

Grantee: Mary R. Fowler

Grantor: Kenneth B. and Loraine H. Duke

Date: July 9, 1958

Reference: JMM Liber 5, Folio 289

Grantee: Kenneth B. Duke

Grantor: R. Ford and Margaret Combs

Date: July 15, 1927

Note: The property was willed to R. Ford and Margaret Combs by Robert C. Combs. The land consists of two tracts. The tract the house is contained on is presumed to be is called "Part of Darley" or "Darley." This tract contains approximately 11 1/8 acre.

SM-338, Eldon St. Mary's County 8.4 Significance

(cont.)

Reference: JAC Liber 2, Folio 159

Grantee: Robert C. Combs

Grantor: Benjamin G. and Martha E. Harris

Date: November 17, 1866

Note: The property is named "Darley" and was recently surveyed by John F. Wathen. It contains

11 1/8 acre.

Reference: JAC Liber 2, Folio 158

Grantee: Robert C. Combs

Grantor: Francis M. Goddard, Sheriff

Date: December 11, 1866

Note: The property was sold at public auction to Robert C. Combs. An equity case involving Ann C. Stonestreet vs. Benjamin G. Harris resulted in its sale.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME				
HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON Wentworth	House			
2 LOCATION	I			
STREET & NUMBER	√Washington St.) (On I	Eldon Lane)		
CITY, TOWN	aryland Rte. 245,	north of inters	ection with Mar CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	
Leonardtown		VICINITY OF		
STATE Maryland		St	COUNTY Mary's County	· 7
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT X BUILDING(S)	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
∴BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
SITE	BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT	RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC
,	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
4 OWNER OF	FPROPERTY			
NAME		.	n-1 - 1 - U	
STREET & NUMBER			Telephone #:	
CITY, TOWN			STATE , Z	ip code
		VICINITY OF		
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION ₁	Liber #:	
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.]	Folio #:	
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
C DEDDECEN	TATION IN EXIST	INC CLIDVEVC		
TITLE	IATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEIS		
DATE				
DATE		FEDERALS	TATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, TOWN			STATE	

X.EXCELLENT

__GOOD

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS

__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED __ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED

DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house is set back at a distance from the east side of Maryland Route 245, approached by a long dirt drive, and is situated among many trees and shrubs, with a large field to the south. The principal facade faces west toward Route 245.

The house is in two sections, with the largerItalianate pyramidal roofed 3 bay cube on the north, and a smaller hip roofed wing, 2 bays wide, to the south. The main north block features a one story porch which wraps around its north and west sides, and is supported by simple Italianate square piers. This block also has a simple wide bracketed cornice with paired brackets.

The first floor of this section's main facade has a transomed doorway in its north end with two long 6/9 windows to its south. The second floor has three 6/6 windows, as are most of the windows on the house. There is an interior chimney on the northwest corner of this section's roof. On the north east corner is a one bay, two story projecting wing.

The secondary hip-roofed wing is set back one bay from the front of the main block. It has a partial one-story porch with turned balusters on its front facade, connecting to an enclosed projecting bay at the southwest corner which has one 2/2 window. two smaller 6/6 windows on the second floor of this facade. There is an interior chimney on the south end of this section's hip roof. Both parts of the house have white clapboards. To the east of the house is a two-story gable-roofed outbuilding.



	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700·1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant for its unusually elegant Italianate design, which is rare in the area. It is well preserved and carefully maintained, and its historical integrity remains intact.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NEC	ESSARY
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTI	IES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY
11 FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME / TITLE	
Peggy Bruns Weissman and Peter E. 1	Kurtze, Historic Sites Surveyors
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	December 1979
Shaw House, 21 State Circle	TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	301/269-2438 STATE
Annapolis	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

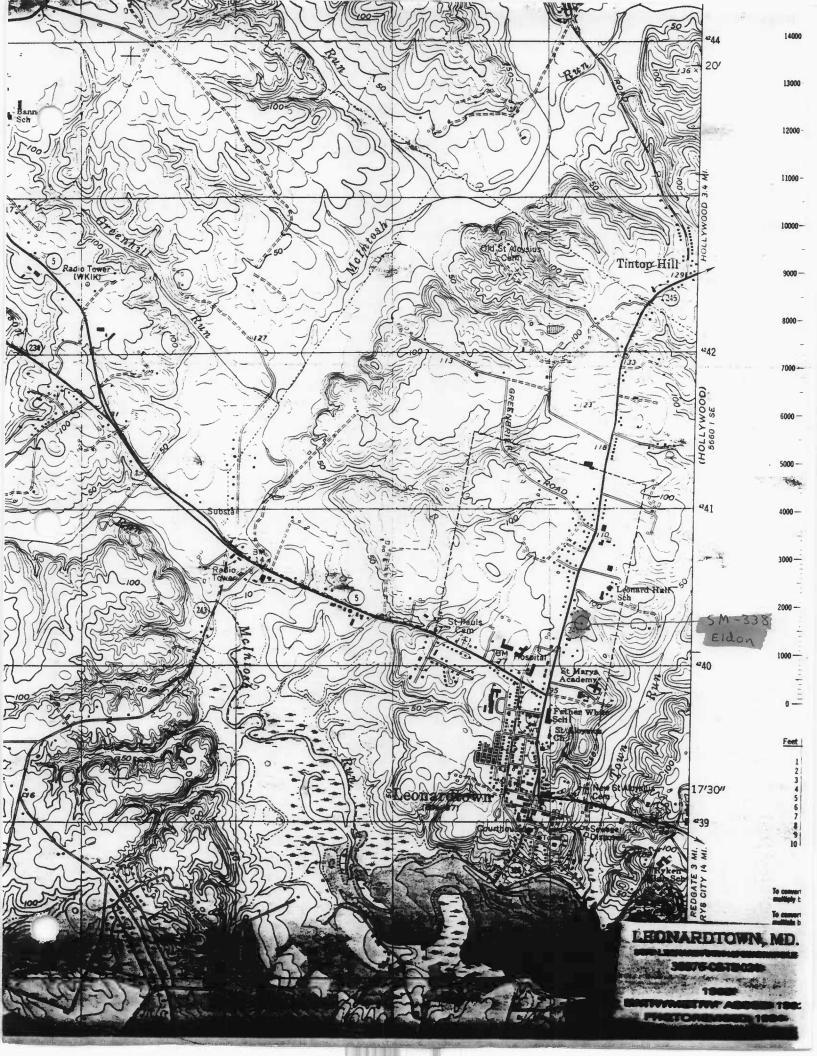
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438





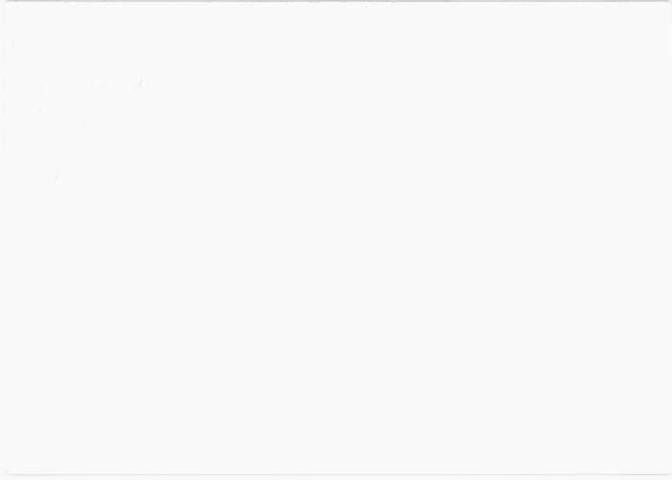






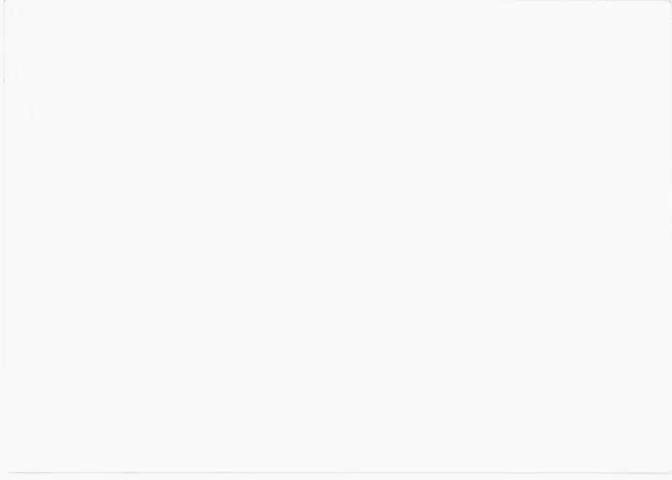
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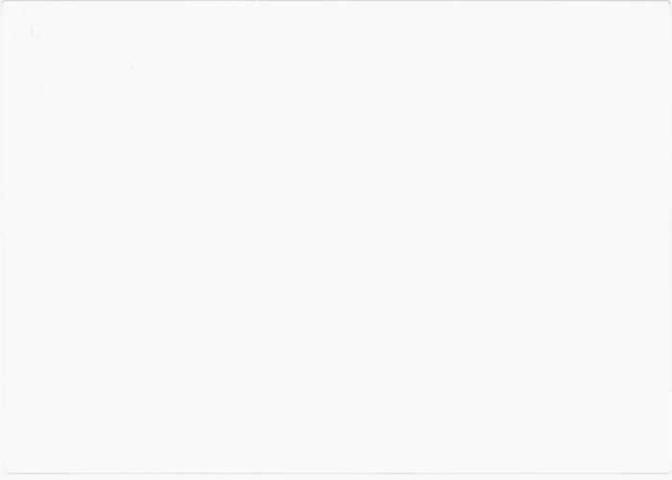




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1979 P. Weissman/P. Kurtze New from west

SM-338 CM-338 Wentwerth House Leonardtonn, MD



1979 P. Weissman/P. Kurtee

5M-338 Wentworth House Lesnardtown, MD